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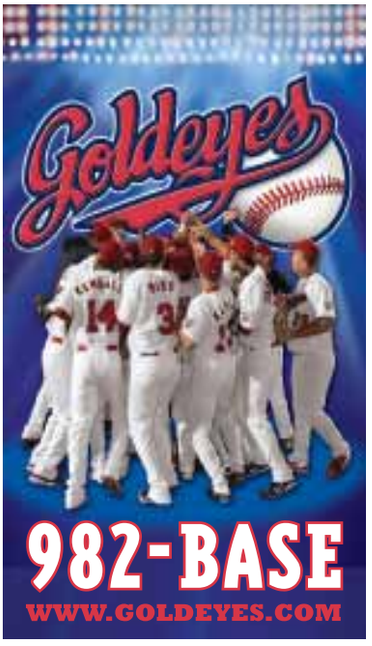
T-PAIN'S NOT HURTING AUTO-TUNES OUT HATERS

{page 12}



WINNIPEG metro®
Thursday, December 15, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Bombers to play at Investors Group Field

Club coy about price tag of naming rights • Stadium quickly nicknamed 'The Money Pit' on Twitter

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ossama AbouZeid, left, interim CEO of the Winnipeg Football Club, and Murray Taylor, president and CEO of Investors Group, unveil the newly named Investors Group Field yesterday.

It's not finished yet, but the new $190-million home for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers now has a name: Investors Group Field.

Ossama AbouZeid, the interim CEO of the Winnipeg Football Club, made the announcement to media in the Blue and Gold Club of the old stadium yesterday.

"The WFC and Investors Group have reached a 12-year agreement to name the new home of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the University of Manitoba Bisons the Investors Group Field," AbouZeid said.

He was flanked by stakeholder representatives including Mayor Sam Katz, Premier Greg Selinger and U of M president Dr. David Barnard.

Artists' representations of how the company name will appear on the stadium as well as centre field were also unveiled, along with the new team W logo.

Investors Group president and CEO Murray Taylor said they are excited and "very honoured to be able to call the new home of the Winnipeg Football Club the Investors Group Field."

Taylor pointed out Investors Group, a national financial-services company, has had its headquarters in Winnipeg for more than 80 years.

All parties have agreed not to reveal the value of the deal.

When asked if they reached their $20-million goal for the naming rights, Jeff Thompson, chief transition officer for the Winnipeg Football Club, did provide a small, non-specific hint.

"We're very proud of having a long-term, 12-year deal that does meet all of our financial requirements, for sure," Thompson said.

SEAN LEDWICH

A Grey Cup prediction

...and one for the stadium, too.

- WFC's AbouZeid is floating some predictions for 2012.
- "Grey Cup, here we come," AbouZeid said. "Last year we raised the bar. Last year we reached the final. This year I think the players are excited."
- "Hopefully this time we are going to bring home the 100th Grey Cup."
- As for the still-unfinished stadium, Bomber communications co-ordinator David Turnbull says not to worry.
- "It's still expected to be open on time," Turnbull said. "The team will move in there April, ahead of the June season start."
- Anyone wanting to track Turnbull's prediction to fruition can watch live online by clicking the Stadium Construction Webcam at bluebombers.com.

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Councillors vote to share city services

Winnipeg will share services within Manitoba's capital region, after city councillors voted in favour of the motion yesterday.

The 11-5 vote means Winnipeg will now sell water and provide sewer services to surrounding municipalities in exchange for revenue sharing.

Mayor Sam Katz said the deal could bring in an additional 30 per cent in yearly revenue for the city.

But Coun. John Orlikow refuted that number, adding that the proposal had no business plan.

"There is no projection (for the number of hookups)," he said. "No estimate on the volume of water and sewer treatment (coming in and out of the city from the municipalities). No benchmarks to evaluate (the success or failure of the proposal)."

Orlikow also questioned the legality of the city selling water to surrounding municipalities.

Coun. Ross Eadie agreed with Orlikow, adding that the deal means Winnipeg could lose population.

He also said that, rather than a boost in earnings, the city could see a loss of revenue, money that could be used to upgrade infrastructure.

Eadie, Orlikow and Couns. Jenny Gerbasi, Mike Pagtakhan and Harvey Smith voted against the proposal.

Councillors voted that any agreements with rural municipalities — except for West St. Paul — would need council approval before being finalized.

The RM of West St. Paul is in talks with the city over service sharing. Others that are reportedly ready to negotiate with the city include the RMs of East St. Paul, MacDonald and Rosser.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

CWB seeks injunction to stop reform

Latest court challenge will not dissuade me, federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz says defiantly

The Canadian Wheat Board is asking a judge to overturn federal legislation that would strip the board of its monopoly over western wheat and barley sales.

"The Harper government has reneged on its promise and is now breaking the law, and we intend to hold them to it and ensure that farmers' democratic rights are respected," board chairman Allen Oberg said yesterday.

The board plans to file an application with the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench asking it to rule Bill C-18 invalid. The bill is before the Senate and could become law within weeks, so the board is also asking the court for an injunction to suspend the bill until the case is heard.

The wheat board received support from Liberal Leader Bob Rae, who stood beside Oberg and accused the Conservative government of flouting democracy.

"This legislation takes away an existing right on the part of farmers to decide, together, how they're going to do business," Rae said.

Rae wrote to Gov.-Gen. David Johnston this week to ask him to refuse to give royal assent to the bill until the legal wrangling ends.

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said the government would press on with the bill despite the latest court challenge.

"Our government will make sure that every farmer has a choice in how they market their grain," Ritz said in a statement.

TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The Canadian Wheat Board is hoping the courts will stop a bill, currently before the Senate, that will end the board's monopoly.

The government has already faced one legal setback over Bill C-18. A Federal Court judge ruled last week that the bill violates the Canadian Wheat Board Act, which says the government must consult farmers in a plebiscite before making major changes.

Justice Douglas Campbell made it clear, however, that his ruling was simply a statement on the government's actions. He did not order the government to stop the bill and said he wouldn't interfere in the legislative process.

Board officials are taking that ruling to the Court of Queen's Bench in the hope of getting such an order.

The federal government is appealing the Federal Court ruling and has repeatedly said that Parliament has the right to repeal or amend its own laws.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 news

The Governor General is seeing to it that 'Eddy' will be the first EduZone mascot in space. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Allan Small explains why investors should be more enticed by the stimulus posture of the U.S. than by the rapid growth of emerging economies. More at metronews.ca/investing

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Second suspect named in Kostenko killing

POLICE HANDOUT

▶ Denver Sean Gyles

Winnipeg police have named a second suspect in the killing of Shelden Kostenko.

They are asking for the public's assistance in locating Denver Sean Gyles, 24.

He is described as a black male, six-foot-two, 296 pounds, heavy build, with black hair and brown eyes.

Jordan Gregory Charney, 24, was arrested two weeks ago and charged with second-degree murder in Kostenko's death.

Kostenko died on Dec. 3 as a result of "extensive" upper body injuries, said Winnipeg Police Services Const. Rob Carver.

He was found in an apartment building at the corner of Morley Avenue and Osborne Street. The building has been vacant since a fire about five years ago.

ELISHA DACEY

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA HANDOUT

▶ The flood of 2011 will go down in history as Manitoba's most expensive one ever.

Flood bill overflowing

Struthers admits $815 million — at least — to be paid in compensation

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

Manitoba faces an uncertain financial future as a projected deficit and a flood bill — outstripped only by the flood itself — comes due.

Finance Minister Stan Struthers said yesterday Manitobans will pay at least $815 million for flood compensation this year, far more than the $632-million prediction earlier this fall.

Meanwhile, the federal government is expected to pony up $472 million in flood-fighting money to the province.

In addition to the $343-million shortfall, the province is facing a projected deficit of $438 million, Struthers told reporters.

But the numbers game shows no sign of ending.

A state-of-the-province luncheon is being held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre today.

There, Premier Greg Selinger will speak to more than 1,000 business and community leaders — the largest number ever, according to the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

While exact financial numbers are unlikely to be addressed at the luncheon, the province's second-quarter financial numbers are due to be released, perhaps as early as Friday.

Stabbings, arson, robberies and vandalism: It was a violent night in the 'Peg

A string of stabbings and vandalism kept police busy Tuesday night and into yesterday morning.

The violent night began with a stabbing investigation on Main Street, where police said a 16-year-old male was confronted by two other males.

The pair allegedly stabbed the teen in the upper body and knocked his head through a bus shelter window.

He is in stable condition in hospital. Two suspects aged 20 and 28 were arrested and detained.

Just before midnight, two men aged 25 and 30 were walking near Selkirk Avenue and Andrews Street when they were approached by two youths.

Police said the teens asked for property, and when the men refused, the 30-year-old man was stabbed and the teens ran.

The victim is in serious but stable condition at hospital. No arrests have been made.

At 12:50 a.m. yesterday, a 48-year-old man was assaulted and stabbed at Selkirk Avenue and McGregor Street after an argument at a party.

Police said two 19-year-old males are in custody and face aggravated assault charges.

Meanwhile, a vandalism and robbery spree was happening in north Winnipeg:

Police allege three teens smashed windshields and broke into garages along Manorview Close, Pipeline Road, Blechner Drive, Jefferson Avenue, Fife Street and Mapleglen Drive.

The canine unit tracked the trio and they are all facing numerous charges.

ELISHA DACEY

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MTS Centre. Hosts LMFAO

▶ Upbeat rockers LMFAO party with 10,000 Winnipeggers at the MTS Centre last night. The pop duo, along with Far East Movement, Collette Cars and Natalia Kills, played to an energetic crowd.

BRUCE FEDYUK/FOR METRO WINNIPEG

Two spark 10,000 happy screams

Trudeau apologizes after swearing at Kent

Unparliamentary language causes uproar in Commons

His father claimed to have only mouthed "fuddle duddle" during a heated Commons exchange, but a colourful outburst by Justin Trudeau during question period is leaving no room for confusion.

The Liberal MP was heard quite clearly to have called Environment Minister Peter Kent a "piece of s–t," causing a momentary uproar in the House yesterday.

Kent had just finished telling his NDP critic Megan Leslie that she was ill-informed about a recent climate-change conference because she hadn't attended.

But the government had prevented opposition MPs from being part of the official Canadian delegation.

Following question period, Trudeau rose immediately to apologize.

"I lost my temper and used language that was most decidedly unparliamentary and for that I unreservedly apologize and withdraw my remarks," he said.

Kent said he wasn't troubled by the language, but asked that Trudeau apologize to the House of Commons.

New Democrat Ryan Creary also got into trouble over language after he called a cabinet minister a "bully."

Speaker Andrew Scheer suggested he withdraw the comment, but he refused.

"The minister of fisheries and oceans asked a question, he asked this House whether he looked like a bully," Creary said.

"I merely answered his question. I would answer his question the same way if he asked it again."

Scheer said that wasn't an acceptable retraction.

"The honourable member may have some difficulty getting recognized until he decides that he may want to respect the rules of the House," the Speaker warned.

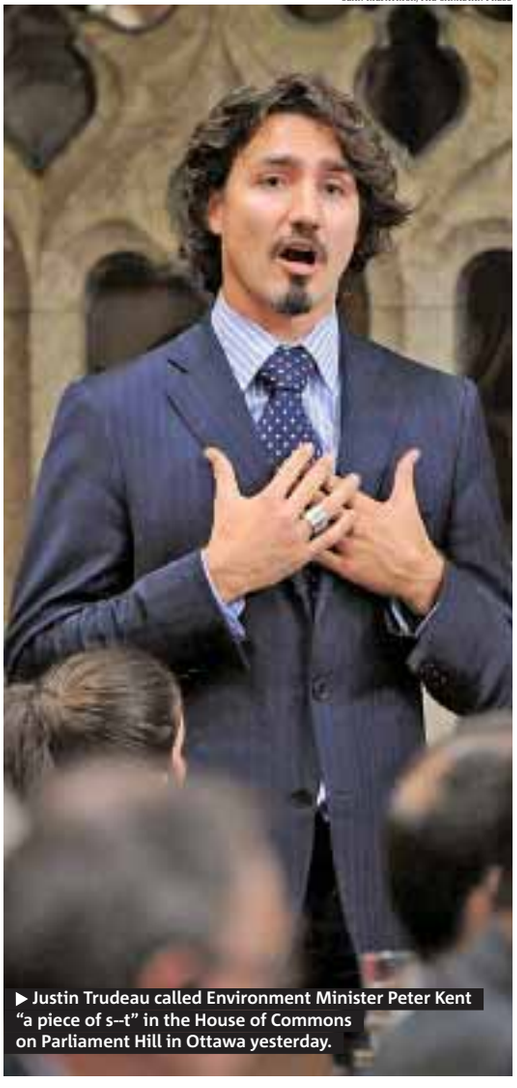
Creary reconsidered: "I apologize and withdraw the remark."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Expletive

- **It has been a foul-mouthed** season on Parliament Hill.
- **New Democrat MP** Pat Martin recently used an expletive on Twitter when the government limited debate on its budget bill, and interim Liberal leader Bob Rae referred to "bulls--t" in response to a negative tweet by another Liberal.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Justin Trudeau called Environment Minister Peter Kent "a piece of s–t" in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday.

ROYAL TRIP

Charles, Camilla to visit Canada

The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall will visit Canada next May as part of a year-long celebration leading up to the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation, the federal government announced yesterday.

Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, will tour New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan during the trip.

Earlier in London, Buckingham Palace announced that the couple will also visit Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shopping, e-games: Your taxes at work

The Aboriginal Affairs Department called in an auditor after one of its managers went on a wild, taxpayer-funded shopping spree, new documents show. A bureaucrat in the Northwest Territories charged tens of thousands of dollars to government credit cards.

When the misbehaving manager got caught two and a half years into her splurge, she was nearly $40,000 in the hole.

"Her actions were not impulsive and/or compulsive. They have been found to be premeditated," says a briefing note to top officials. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What she bought

Purchases included:

- **$4,000 on an online game** called Second Life.
- **A trip to Las Vegas** in February 2010, where the woman and her husband spent five nights at the Circus Circus hotel and casino at a cost of $2,000.
- **Purchases at Walmart,** Northern Fancy Meats and Staples.
- **Almost $100 for pizza.**
- **Cellphone and** cable bills.
- **On the long list of** expenses, only a $27 book on how to use PowerPoint was for work.

Meteor video released

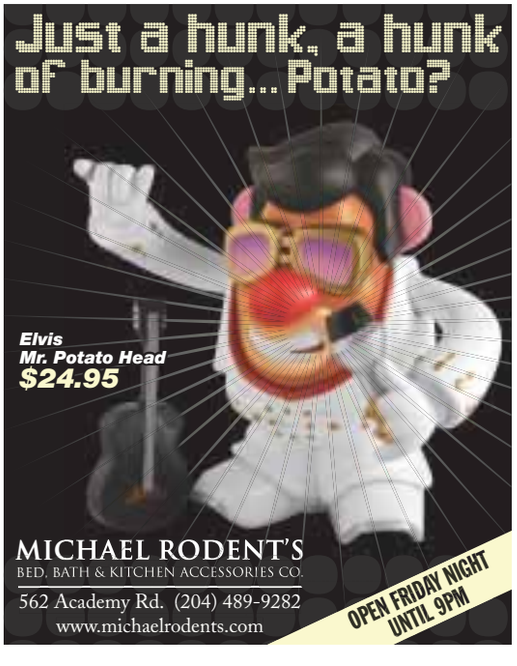
Astronomers from the University of Western Ontario have released rare video of a meteor that travelled through the evening sky east of Toronto earlier this week.

Although the bright fireball appeared near the peak of the annual Geminid meteor shower, astronomers say it's unrelated to that shower.

Six cameras belonging to Western's Southern Ontario Meteor Network captured the slow-moving fireball shortly after 6 p.m. on Monday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

To watch the video, scan the code or visit metronews.ca.



Belgians grieve after bloodbath

Government pledges to toughen gun law, put stricter controls on multiple offenders on conditional release

GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ People leave tributes at the site of Tuesday's gun and grenade attack in central Liege, Belgium, yesterday.

A card at a memorial to the victims asked the question haunting all of Belgium: "Why?"

Why did Nordine Amrani, a 33-year-old with a history of lawbreaking, sweep into this city's holiday shopping centre to unleash a grenade-and-gun rampage that killed three people and wounded 123 others? Why did he then kill himself?

Deepening the mystery, police announced yesterday that another body had been found, that of a 45-year-old woman, in a shed where Amrani grew cannabis close to his home.

Liege prosecutor Daniele Reynders said, after searches of Amrani's house, terrorism could be excluded.

"It was a cleaning lady. This is how she met him yesterday morning," she said. "She dies, shot with a bullet in the head."

"We are all Liegeois, united in suffering. ... This was an act of a sick man."
ADELIE MIGUEL, 48, WHO PLACED A BOUQUET OF WHITE TULIPS AGAINST THE SHATTERED BUS STOP

The Ferris Wheel at Liege's Christmas market started turning again yesterday, hoping to restore some festive cheer, but the mood remained black as the coal that once drove this rust-belt city in eastern Belgium.

"The crowds won't show up," said Francoise Robert, a vendor selling miniature castles and Christmas items. "People are scared."

The victims included a one-year-old toddler and two teenage boys, both students.

Five others are reported in critical condition.

Beyond the dead and injured, Reynders said 40 other people had to be treated for psychological trauma.

Amrani's lawyer said his client had been particularly scared over the last few days that he would be jailed again. It is unclear, however, if this was the tipping point.

"He was extremely nervous," Jeann-Francois Dister told VRT network. "He was impulsive but what he did was unbelievable."

Even though he still had more grenades and more rounds of ammunition with him, Amrani turned a gun on himself and shot himself in the face.

In Liege, a melting pot of immigrant communities whose members worked the blast furnaces and coal mines here for decades, some people feared a backlash: Amrani had a foreign heritage, even if he was Belgian-born. In Belgium, racial stereotypes tend to surface quickly when crime is involved.

"This man? I didn't know him. I just know that he is a Moroccan," said Amrani's neighbour Wihelmina Schwartz.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Witches detained for blackmail

VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ In this Jan. 5, 2011 photo Romanian witch Mihaela Minca holds cards during an interview in Mogosoaia, Romania.

Two self-professed witches were detained in Romania on blackmail and extortion charges yesterday in a high-profile case involving a TV star and reportedly other public figures.

Police spokesman Christian Ciocan said the two women — who go by the single names of Melissa and Vanessa — approached public figures promising to help them overcome work or love difficulties, and help them break curses.

He said the women initially charged very little, but then, as their victims became hooked on their services, increased their prices.

Ciocan cited one case where the victim — who later publicly identified herself as TV personality Oana Zavoranu — handed over €450,000 ($606,651) in cash and property in exchange for spells.

He said the witches practiced voodoo, and sacrificed animals in graveyards and near rivers, claiming this would protect Zavoranu from her mother and in-laws who had put a curse on her.

The witches, however, claim Zavoranu is being vengeful because she asked them to cast a spell on her mother that would kill her, but the mother is still alive.

The ex-wife of businessman Cristi Borcea, one of two owners of Romanian football team Dinamo Bucharest, was also cited as a victim, but she has neither confirmed or denied the case.

Ciocan said if the victims tried to cease payment, the two women would threaten to put a spell on them, or disclose details of their personal lives.

Melissa and Vanessa were released yesterday, following a court ruling that they should not be detained awaiting trial.

The decision can be appealed.

Many people believe in witchcraft in Romania. President Traian Basescu and his aides have been known to wear purple on certain days, supposedly to ward off evil.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One in four women abused in U.S.

One in four U.S. women say they have been hit hard, kicked or otherwise violently attacked by their intimate partners, according to a government survey released yesterday that offers startling findings about domestic violence.

The new national look at how many women say they've been abused offers some numbers that are higher than previous reports.

One expert called the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's report's estimate on rape and attempted rape "extremely high" — with one in five women saying they were victims. About half of those cases involved intimate partners. But advocates say rape has been vastly underreported in the past and the new numbers are plausible.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report is based on a randomized telephone survey of 9,000 women.

- **As many as 29 million** women say they have suffered severe and frightening physical violence from a boyfriend, spouse or other intimate partner. That includes being choked, beaten, stabbed, shot, punched, slammed against something or hurt by hair-pulling.
- **That number grows to** 36 million if slapping, pushing and shoving are also counted.
- **Almost half** of the women who reported rape or attempted rape said it happened when they were 17 or younger.

News in brief

LYNN CHAMBERLAIN/UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE SERVICES/AP

▶ A surviving grebe.

Birds mistake land for water

CRASH LANDING. Thousands of birds died on impact after apparently mistaking a Walmart parking lot and areas of southern Utah for bodies of water and plummeting to the ground in what one wildlife expert called the worst downing she's ever seen.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google works to end slavery

RECORD GRANT. Tech giant Google announced yesterday it is donating $11.5 million to several coalitions fighting to end the modern-day slavery of some 27 million people around the world.

It is believed to be the largest-ever corporate grant devoted to the advocacy, intervention and rescue of people being held, forced to work or provide sex against their will. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Freak accident kills woman

DEATH BY DRAGGING. A woman was killed in a freak elevator mishap yesterday around 10 a.m. in a 26-storey office tower near Grand Central Terminal. The woman was stepping onto the elevator on the first floor when either her foot or leg became caught in the closing doors. The car then rose abruptly, dragging her body into the shaft and killing her, officials said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police shave, arrest punks to teach lesson

Muslim hardliners cut off mohawks of rock fans to enforce moral values Police crack down on 'disgusting' lifestyle

Police in Indonesia's most conservative province raided a punk-rock concert and detained dozens of fans, buzzing off their spiky mohawks and stripping away body piercings because of the perceived threat to Islamic values.

Dog-collar necklaces and chains were taken from the youths before they were thrown in pools of water for "spiritual" cleansing, local police Chief Iskandar Hasan said yesterday.

After replacing their "disgusting" clothes, he handed each a toothbrush and barked "use it."

The crackdown marked the latest effort by authorities to promote strict moral values in Aceh, the only province in this secular but predominantly Muslim nation of 240 million to have imposed Islamic laws.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ In this photo, punks sit inside a pool in a police school compound after their heads were shaved in Aceh Besar, Aceh province, Indonesia.

Police story

- **Baton-wielding police** scattered fans, many of whom had travelled from other parts of the sprawling archipelagic nation to attend the show.
- **Police said** 59 young men and five women were loaded into vans and brought to a police detention centre.
- **They would spend** 10 days getting rehabilitation, training in military-style discipline and religious classes, including Qur'an recitation, police officials said. Afterward, they'll be sent home.
- **While the men's heads were shaved**, the women, some in tears, were given short, blunt bobs.

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Cyber-hate fuels free-speech debate

Human-rights law under review, pitting advocates against defenders of free speech

A section of Canada's human-rights code that protects against hate speech on the Internet is under attack on two fronts just as three accused neo-Nazis in British Columbia face charges of vicious, racist assaults.

An appeal got underway in Federal Court in Toronto this week scrutinizing Section 13 of the Human Rights Act, which says it's discriminatory to spread hate messages online. The case pits human-rights advocates against defenders of free expression.

Meanwhile, federal Tories are seeking to kill the provision via a private member's bill in the House of Commons.

But those who keep an eye on incidents of hate are worried that if those provisions of the act are killed, Canada could see more incidents like the setting on fire of a Filipino man in Vancouver.

Hate on the rise

The Internet now disseminates the racists' rallying call, said Richard Warman, one of three parties in the appeal case. He contends Section 13 must stay intact.

- **Statistics Canada** found Canadian police forces reported a rise of 42 per cent in hate-based incidents in 2009, as compared to 2008, and more than half were based on race.

Police recently announced the arrests of two men in their 20s, and a 30 year old in connection with that assault and three others against minorities in Vancouver. Investigators allege the trio are members of Blood and Honour, a white-supremacist group.

Other proponents of free speech want the law axed.

"The best defence against so-called 'hate speech' is not government enforcement of vague prohibitions, but an educated and alert citizenry and vigilant and responsible media," Charles Foran, president of PEN Canada, an association of writers and supporters who defend freedom of expression.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sexual. Slavery

▶ Kil Un-ock, right, a South Korean woman who was forced to serve the Japanese army as a sexual slave during the Second World War, shouts slogans in Seoul yesterday, demanding an official apology and compensation from the Japanese government.

LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Comfort women' demand apology

Protesters in Seoul placed a statue of a girl representing victims of Japanese Second World War-era sexual slavery in front of the Japanese Embassy yesterday as South Korean President Lee Myung-bak prepared to visit Tokyo.

Fraternity under investigation

A University of Vermont fraternity has been suspended while officials investigate allegations that it circulated a survey that asked members who they would like to rape.

Members of the Vermont chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon would not discuss the allegations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

Toyota Venza on top for theft

CAR CRIME. Bad news for Toyota Venza owners — the 2009 edition of the crossover SUV is the new hot target for Canadian car thieves.

The model tops the Insurance Bureau of Canada's top 10 most frequently stolen vehicles. It replaces the 2000 Honda Civic SiR, last year's No. 1 stolen vehicle, which has dropped to third place.

In at second is the 1999 Honda Civic SiR two-door, while the 2006 Ford F350 Pickup Truck 4WD takes fourth place and the 2002 Cadillac Escalade EXT four-door AWD is in fifth.

The ICC says vehicles are often targeted by criminal organizations that strip or resell them to unsuspecting consumers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians watch more online

VIDEOS. The average Canadian Internet user spends about an hour watching 10 videos online a day, according to digital measurement firm comScore. ComScore named Canadians as the most avid viewers of online video again, with users aged 15 and older watching an average of 303.7 videos in October.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Easier to connect with WestJet

AIRLINES. WestJet Airlines Ltd. has signed an interline deal with Japan Airlines making it easier for passengers to connect between the two airlines. Travellers will link from Japan Airlines flights landing in Vancouver, and then connect to WestJet flights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mobile banking ready to rise

Nearly 3 million Canadians are checking balances via their phones

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A smartphone user tracks mortgage payments with an online banking app from CIBC.

Most Canadians still aren't pulling out their phones to check their bank account balances and pay bills but experts and users alike expect a whole lot more will be doing so in 2012.

"We definitely see there's been humongous growth on the banking front on the phone platform," says Bryan Segal, vice-president of the digital measurement firm comScore.

Canadians are among the world's leaders when it comes to embracing online and mobile banking, according to comScore. Last year, Canada ranked as the top country for online banking usage, with almost 65 per cent of our Internet users going on the web each month to check their accounts.

More recently, comScore estimated there were about 13.3 million Canadians regularly doing online banking, compared to 63.6 million in the U.S.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
- 216.9 (11,543.05)	- 0.5¢ (96.19¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
- $5.19 US ($94.95 US)	$3.136 US (- 14.3¢ US)
	Gold
	$1,586.90 US (- $76.2 US)

Segal says about 13 per cent of Canada's mobile users access their banking on their phone on a monthly basis, which is roughly on par with the U.S. market and ahead of the European Union.

TD Bank and RBC had the biggest chunk of the market, with 26.7 per cent and 25.7 per cent of mobile banking users, followed by CIBC with 17 per cent, Scotiabank with 13.2 per cent and ING Direct with 9.8 per cent.

According to a Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association survey, the biggest reason users are avoiding mobile banking is security. About 52 per cent said they had security-related concerns, while 24 per cent said they simply found online banking easier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IGNORING KYOTO, ONE LESS COUNTRY AT A TIME

HE SAYS ...

METRO

I, for one, was inspired by the Kyoto Protocol, which ushered in a bold new era in which countries throughout the world put aside their differences and worked together to ignore the Kyoto Protocol.

It's rare you see that kind of teamwork outside of arms deals.

The Conservatives pulled Canada out of Kyoto this week, and it would be easy to mock them (fun, too), but this is a failure we all share in.

When the Kyoto deal was signed in 1997, we talked about the deal as if something really exceptional had happened that would unite humanity — like the end of nuclear weapons or a Saved by the Bell reunion special.

"Global warming is too slow, too subtle for humans. Us rats, we don't understand risk-reward if the electric shock comes decades later."

We were breathlessly told that we'd be able to breathe again, all thanks to 160 signatories sending the amount of greenhouse gases back to the halcyon days of the 1980s.

The U.S., showing its usual world leadership, got the failure started when George W. Bush said the protocol was "economically irresponsible" — a description that looked a little short-sighted when New Orleans did its imitation of the SpongeBob SquarePants mise-en-scène.

At the time, Canada took its usual official diplomatic position toward the U.S. of being smug. According to WikiLeaks, Paul Martin's official cable to the U.S. was "Tsk, tsk, tsk." Canada's greenhouse-gas record was as bad as America's but we left that part out, as one does.

Some blame goes to the accord's writers, too: We should have known Kyoto was doomed as soon as we heard there were environmental "credits" that could be used to offset actually helping the environment — a sort of frequent-polluter points card. Getting out of pollution standards because you are planting trees, say, seems to me like getting out of a speeding ticket in the morning because you plan to drive under the speed limit in the afternoon.

Finally, of course, there's you. Did you do anything worthy of an environmental award since 1997? Recycling and composting only gets you a Certificate of Attendance.

Global warming is too slow, too subtle for humans. Us rats, we don't understand risk-reward if the electric shock comes decades later.

I'm still hopeful. Everyone seems to value the environment, even if they weren't on board for Kyoto. One-hundred-and-sixty countries failed in Japan, but it could be different now. If we really believe, we could get 190, maybe 200 countries on the road to probable failure this time. When it comes to world diplomacy, this is progress.

(Deep breaths, everyone. Deep breaths.)

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What type of gift do you prefer to receive?

Local tweets

- **@WpgVargs:** When they say 'Investors Field', they must be referring to the Manitoba taxpayer. #WePaidForIt #BB
- **@Pfiefedog:** "@Brittanymaria: New @Wpg_BlueBombers Stadium will be named Investors Group Field." Wow! What an underwhelming name for the new stadium
- **@OohCrystal:** people need to stop bitching about the new stadium name. investors group field is not that bad. be thankful we're getting a new stadium.
- **@hacksandwonks:** Better than "Manitoba Lotteries Coliseum". #PrivateDollars RT @wazoowazny: 12 year agreement. Investors Group Field.
- **@Chantelle_Amy:** I get back from lunch break to hear the new stadium is going to be called "Investors Group Field"? #smh #boring!
- **@Shel:** Zolkewich Investor's Group Field is not nearly as bad as KFC Yum! Center in Louisville, Kentucky.
- **@TheSheepdogs:** Hello Winnipeg.

Daily Zoom

GETTY IMAGES

All quiet on the Baghdad front

U.S. leaving Iraq via Kuwait route

KUWAIT. U.S. army soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division walk to a waiting bus as they leave customs for a ride to the airport to fly back to Fort Hood, Texas. They exited Iraq yesterday at Camp Virginia in Kuwait City. President Obama is meeting Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to ceremonially mark the end of the war.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"On behalf of a grateful nation, I'm proud to finally say these two words — welcome home."

BARACK OBAMA TOLD CHEERING TROOPS AT FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

150,000

American troops were present in Iraq when Obama took office. Within 15 days, there will be zero left. Some 4,483 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since the conflict started, while nearly 30,000 have been injured. The Iraq war cost the U.S. approximately $1 trillion.

America's most famous division

FIRST TEAM. The 1st Cavalry Division contains over 18,000 soldiers and is regarded as the most famous heavy-armoured combat division in the American army. The unit has been deployed in Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Yugoslavia and the war in Afghanistan, also known as Operation Enduring Freedom.

METRO WORLD NEWS

metro

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Listen to it backwards

Local metal bands putting on tribute to Judas Priest ◆ Forget the hits, this is for true fans

BACKSTAGE PASS

JARED STORY
METRO WINNIPEG

Get ready for some hot rockin' tomorrow night at The Zoo.

Local headbangers from Evil Survives and Putrescence unite for the Judas Priest Dance Party, a tribute to British metal gods Judas Priest.

"I am wholly and entirely enveloped by (Priest)," vocalist Karl Warkentin says, 26. "It's one of the only bands that I've been constantly listening to for the last 10 years. It never gets old. The radio does its damndest to make Priest old, but they're just too damn perfect."

Yes, unlike your average FM station playlist, the Judas Priest Dance Party will not feature the Birmingham rockers biggest two hits.

"We will not do (You've Got Another Thing Comin' and Living After Midnight)," drummer Cory Thomas says, 31.

"We don't want to be too predictable. We think this set is for true Priest fans. We're not playing the obvious tunes and we're spanning a lot of the albums, but we ain't touching Nostradamus (Priest's much maligned 2008 concept album) or Demolition (one of two Priest studio albums to not feature vocalist Rob Halford)."

The Judas Priest Dance Party band — which also features guitarist Sean Oko and Sam Martz, bassist Shaun Thomas and back-up vocalist Alanna Yuen — will also avoid Priest's thrashier tunes, sticking to the mid-paced movers and groovers.

"It's the ideal set for a dance party," Warkentin says.

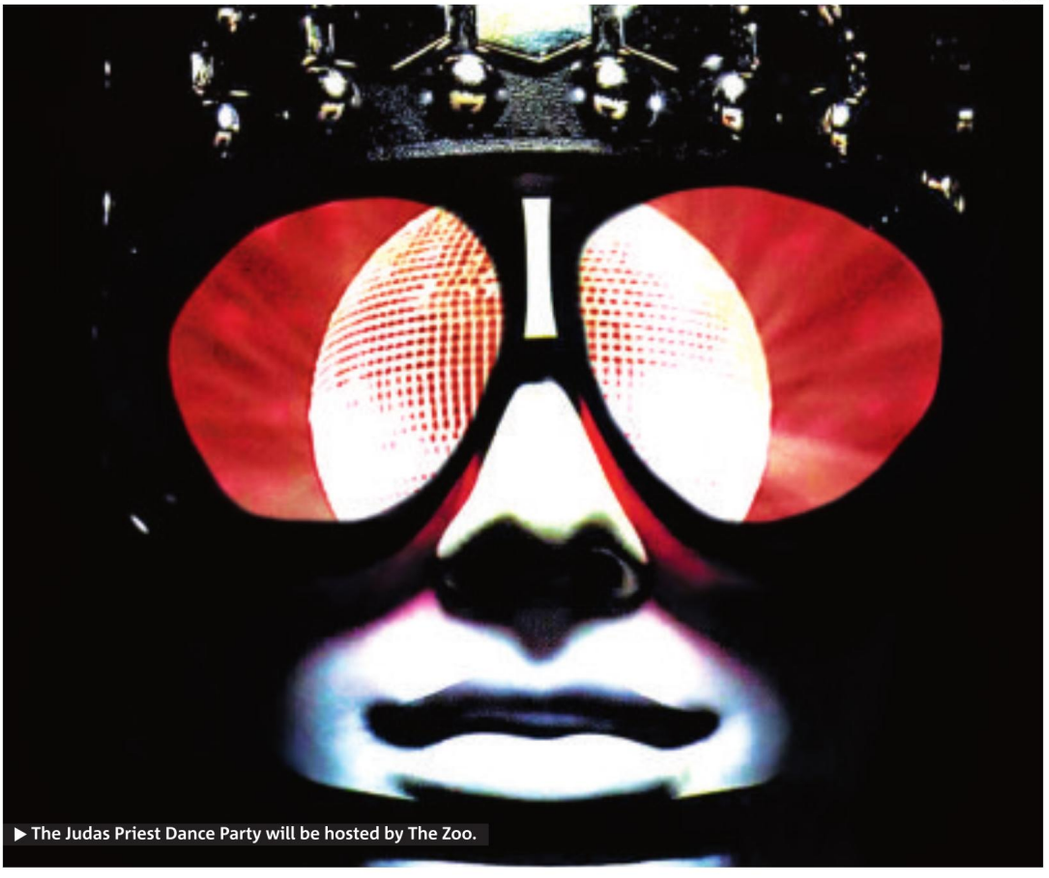
"It's still a metal show but a safe one. With this type of music, so many people would love to dance to it, but they can't because they're going to get elbowed in the back of the skull. This is the opposite of that."

In addition to cuts from classic albums like Stained Class, Sin After Sin and British Steel, the Judas Priest Dance Party will feature sets by local bands Big Trouble in Little China and Lonely Vulcans.

Admission is $8 at the door.

Showtime is 10 pm.

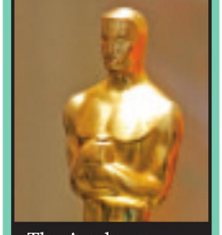
HANDOUT



▶ The Judas Priest Dance Party will be hosted by The Zoo.

2 scene

Oscar



The Academy Award Orson Welles won for writing the classic film Citizen Kane will be sold to the highest bidder. Auctioneer Nate D. Sanders plans to sell the Oscar statuette on Dec. 20.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Downey meets his match as 'Holmes' sequel resurrects grandad of super-villains Moriarty

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Dirt off your shoulder

T-Pain brushes off his critics with laughs and lots of hits

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ T-Pain's latest album, rEVOLVEr, was released last week.

T-Pain knows that whatever he does — including his latest album, rEVOLVEr, which he calls the best record he's ever done — there will be people who will just dismiss him as that Auto-Tune guy.

It doesn't bother him though. While it may be a blow to his ego, he soothes the slams with his ever-hearty laugh — and a glance at his checkbook.

"Say what you wanna say — I'm still rich," he said, chuckling while sitting in his tour bus. "It's not going to change anything."

Indeed, nothing seems to have derailed the 27-year-old singer and producer and his hit-making magic since he made his debut with songs like I'm Sprung and I'm N Luv (Wit a Stripper) in 2005. Those songs started a platinum-chain reaction of hits, including Buy U a Drank, Can't Believe It and Good Life with Kanye West, which earned him one of his two Grammy Awards.

"Say what you wanna say — I'm still rich."
T-PAIN

His reliance on Auto-Tune, the vocal aide that gives a computerized effect to his voice, became his signature sound. Its use grew so ubiquitous with other acts that it sparked a backlash.

Jay-Z famously declared D.O.A. (Death of Auto-Tune), but it still thrives. In fact, T-Pain's app that lets people add that effect to their voice is a popular one.

Speaking last month on the night of his final concert as the opening act for Chris Brown's F.A.M.E. tour, T-Pain was weary as he waited for his moment onstage. But through laughs, he had enough energy to talk about his latest album, his critics and the truth in his music.

Have you ever considered not using Auto-Tune because of all the criticism?

No. It made me do it more, just to annoy the hell out of people (laughs). ... It made me realize that when I don't use it, people don't pay attention to them songs. I've got a song on every album, two songs as a matter of fact on every album without Auto-Tune, and that's the song that nobody talks about. It's weird. And like my biggest hit, the biggest hit song I had, the longest-running song was Flo Rida's Low, and that didn't have Auto-Tune on it at all, and people had no idea. They just feel like anytime they hear me, it's going to be Auto-Tune. Anytime people read my tweets, they hear it in Auto-Tune. It's weird. I don't know (laughing).

How have you grown performing in the spotlight, dealing with criticism?

Most of the blogs and stuff, it's just their opinion. It's just that one person. They didn't ask anybody else how they felt. ... It's just their opinion, and I can ask anybody that. It doesn't have to be a journalist. I can just go on Twitter and say, "Hey guys, how did I do tonight?" (Laughs.) That's what I look to, I look to the people who actually came there for a concert, and not somebody who came there looking for some bad stuff to say, because that's what's interesting, that's what makes your blog interesting.

Does this record represent a different T-Pain?

It's a really different T-Pain. It's a more confident T-Pain on the album, but I'm like scared. I don't know what to do. I don't know how this is gonna work out. This album is really good, though. It's so good that I went back just to listen to all of my other albums, and I was like, I don't know why I thought people would like that. It's bad. It's like, such a difference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'We both actually cried while writing the song'

Lambert and husband bond over emotional tribute song they co-wrote

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Married country singers Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert arrive at November's Annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

Miranda Lambert is paying tribute to husband Blake Shelton's late brother with her new single, Over You.

Richie Shelton died in a car accident in 1990. The newlyweds wrote the song together about a year ago, and Lambert recorded it for her latest album Four the Record. It is the second single released from the album. The song idea started on a tour bus as they were flipping through TV channels. Shelton's Backstory happened to be re-airing on Great American Country (GAC), and it was at the part where his dad was talking about his brother's fatal crash. His father said: "You don't ever get over something like that. You just get used to it."

The couple turned the TV off and started talking.

"Miranda never had a chance to meet my brother," Shelton said recently. "I was just a teenager when that happened. So I was telling her about him, what he was like, and we just ended up like we do sometimes, writing a song."

Richie was only 24 when he died. Shelton was 14 at the time.

This was the first time Shelton, now 35, really opened up to Lambert about the tragedy.

"We both actually cried while writing the song," said Lambert, 28.

"That's the only time I've ever gotten that emotional writing a song, and him, too. So, I think the initial emotion came out right that day, and I think you hear it in the lyrics."

Some of the lines are pulled directly from Shelton's experience. Lambert sings, "Your favourite records make me feel better, cause you sing along with every song. I know you didn't mean to give them to me."

"That's one of the things I got when my brother was killed. The family gave me all his albums and things like that," Shelton said.

"I just listened to them over and over again to feel like he was there."

Shelton said Richie loved all kinds of music, from Hank Williams Jr. to MC Hammer.

He still has his brother's No Fences album by Garth Brooks and says Richie's favourite song at the time was Friends In Low Places.

"That to me, that's what I'm supposed to do as a country artist, a country songwriter, is take a real-life situation that is emotional and make it into music."
BLAKE SHELTON ON THE SONG OVER YOU

The songwriting process helped Lambert and Shelton grow as a couple. Lambert calls it the most real song she's ever had.

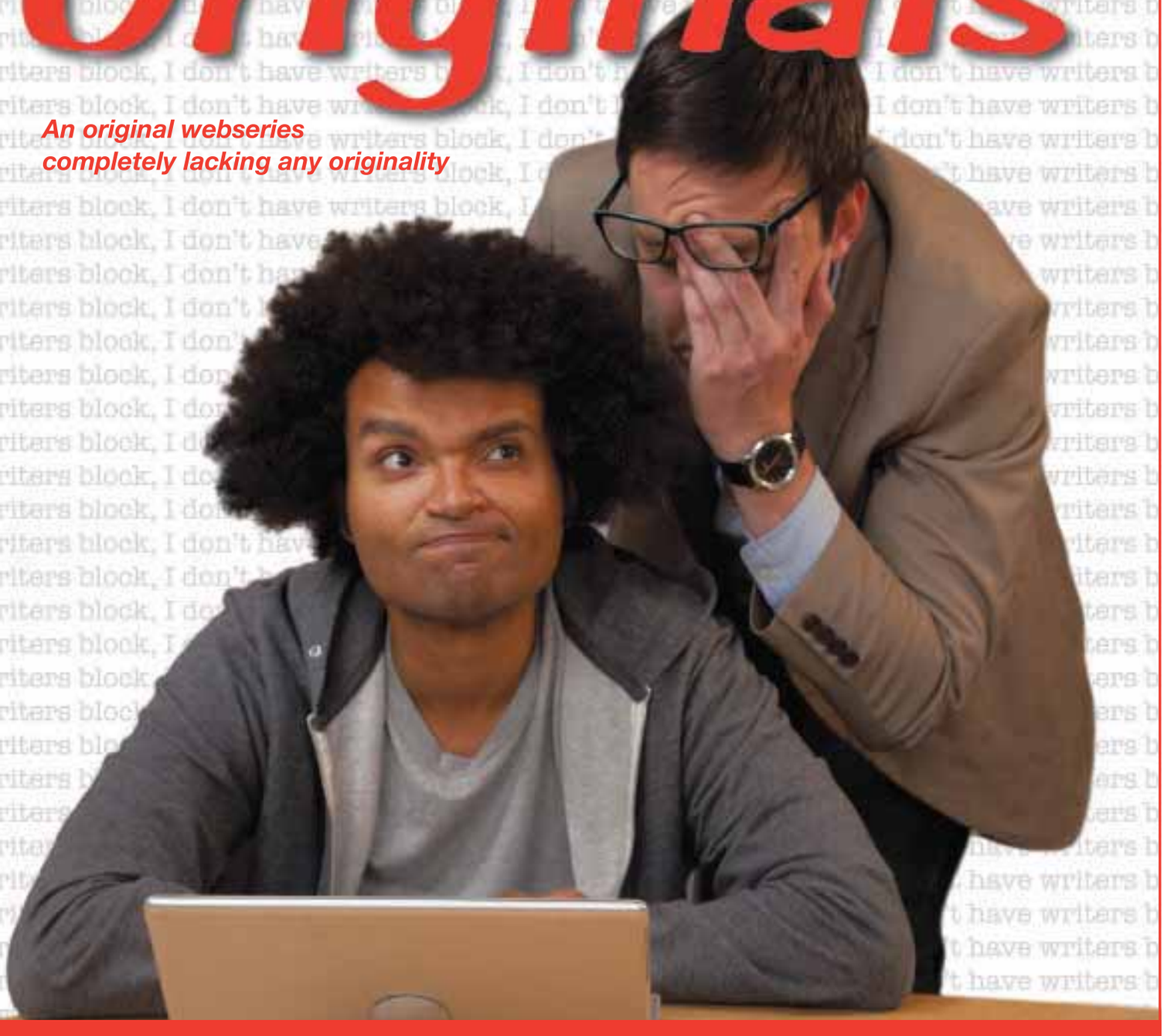
"It was really a great moment between us. It was like we moved to a deeper level, not just in our relationship, but also, we respect each other as artists, and being able to write something that personal with each other was really cool," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From a writer of "The Office"...

Originals

An original webseries completely lacking any originality



In today's episode..."Can't Live Without 'Em"

As originality continues to elude our TV big-shot wannabes, Jason and Bryce decide the only way to the promised land of a 'green lit' project is to swear off women... not that the women will notice. Or will they?

New episodes post every Tuesday and Thursday. Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

LiLo bails on Ellen, 'delayed in Hawaii'

Star cancels spot on talk show Producers score Paris Jackson instead

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

Lindsay Lohan

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Remember that "exclusive" interview Lindsay Lohan was going to do on Ellen — the only media appearance she agreed to do to promote her new Playboy magazine spread? Well, she missed it. Of course she did!

Her rep says the reason she didn't make the show was because she "was delayed in Hawaii due to a travel-related issue. Lindsay offered to tape Ellen tomorrow, but the show was unable to shift things around, and tomorrow is their last day of taping for the season." The show's producers are less than pleased, according to Gossip Cop. "Not a call or an apology from Lindsay," a source close to the show says.

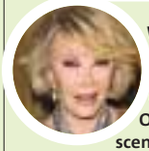
However, the producers scored a coup de grace and got Paris Jackson (Michael Jackson's oldest child) to fill in for Lohan in her first solo television appearance, which will air on Thursday. The 13-year-old talked about her new film role in the fantasy film Lundon's Bridge and the Three Keys. She says her decision to act was due to her father. "My dad was in the movie Moonwalker and I knew he could sing really well, but I didn't know he could act. I saw that and I said, 'Wow, I want to be just like him.'"

Celebrity tweets

@OfficialMelB
ok so i think i'm d efoo going with the video xmas card,ok family lets get this done in the next week or so,will keep you guys posted!

@lindsaylohan
Is this for real??? My friend has a trained cheetah in his car ... That's nuts!!!!!!!!

@mrskutcher
changing my twitter name isn't a top priority right now. sorry it bothers so many of u. should I not tweet until I do?does it really matter?


@Joan_Rivers
We Jews decorate differently for Christmas. Our manger scenes are typically set in a Chinese restaurant.

Sheen's ex heads back to rehab

After more recent run-ins with the law, Charlie Sheen's ex-wife Brooke Mueller has decided to once again check herself into rehab, according to TMZ.

"Brooke has decided to remove herself from the media spotlight and has entered a long-term in-patient treatment centre where she can focus on her recovery without distraction," her rep says.

"Brooke will retain custody of the children, who will remain in their home and familiar surroundings and be under the care of their longtime nanny. Charlie and Brooke's parents fully support her decision, and everyone recognizes the importance of maintaining the children's normal routine." METRO

Charlie Sheen

Sheen's binges 'heartbreaking' to watch: Lorre

Looking back on the blow-up between Charlie Sheen and Two and a Half Men, the show's creator, Chuck Lorre, has changed his views on his former colleague and friend.

"Every time he got himself into trouble, we believed that there was healing that was going to come. I certainly believed that sobriety is something that he wants in his life, and I was wrong," Lorre tells TV Guide magazine.

"You couldn't do that much cocaine and work. It was falling apart.

"It was heartbreaking to be around here then. I didn't want to be writing a sitcom while my friend died. Or worse, hurt someone else.

"We couldn't be complacent. There was a tragedy unfolding right in front of us. There was violence and blackouts. On a certain level, if you're looking the other way, you're responsible." METRO

Kutcher's fling regrets dishing

Despite the $200,000 she reportedly earned for dishing on her affair with Ashton Kutcher, San Diego resident Sarah Leal is regretting the decision to go public. "I got fired from my job. I am no longer friends with my best friend who was my roommate because it caused so many problems and I had to move out," Leal tells Fox411. "I had no idea what I was getting myself into." METRO

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

Angie still loves her some Brad

While six kids may seem like plenty, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt aren't necessarily done building their family.

"Nothing planned at the moment, but we just don't know," Jolie tells Marie Clare magazine. "I could end up pregnant."

In the meantime, she's got plenty of nice things to say about the man in her life. "[Brad] has expanded my life in ways I never imagined. We built a family. He is not just the love my life, he is my family. I hold that very dear," Jolie says. METRO

Marc 'nuts' over JLo's new playboy

Jennifer Lopez has moved on from ex-husband Marc Anthony with the help of a younger man, back-up dancer Casper Smart, and Anthony is reportedly "going nuts" about it, according to Us Weekly.

"He has fits and tantrums and is very stressed," a source says. [He's] lost a lot of weight." And apparently he's not the only one dismayed by the new pairing, as Lopez's friends reportedly aren't too thrilled either. "They don't feel Casper is good enough for her," a source says.

"They are worried because she really puts her heart out there for love."

For the record, a source for Anthony insists he has "been the same weight most of his life." METRO

Crown's jewel shines

A daughter of design royalty and goddaughter of true royalty sparkles with many talents

ALL PHOTOS PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

India Hicks hasn't drifted far from the flashbulbs since she was thrust into the global spotlight three decades ago as a teen bridesmaid in Charles and Diana's royal wedding.

The goddaughter of the Prince of Wales earned a degree in photography before moving in front of the lens as a sought-after model, featured by the likes of Ralph Lauren, Banana Republic and Bill Blass.

The London-born Hicks makes her home in the Bahamas with partner David Flint Wood and their four children, but continues to expand her brand.

She has launched an e-commerce arm of her island lifestyle boutique The Sugar Mill, has teamed with Crabtree and Evelyn on two collections of bath and beauty products and penned a book on inspirational interiors and another on fitness and natural beauty.

Her foray into designing fine jewelry seems a fitting addition to Hicks' style-centred resumé and reflective of her rich pedigree.

"I recognize in myself a lot of my strengths have come from him and indeed the way I decorate. Whether it's interiors, whether it's a collection of fragrances or whether it's fine jewelry."
INDIA HICKS ON HER FATHER, RENOWNED DECORATOR AND DESIGNER DAVID HICKS

Indeed, family played a figurative role in the decision to put her stamp on a signature jewelry collection — perhaps most notably her father, the late David Hicks.

The renowned interior decorator and designer was known for his strong use of colour and geometric designs in carpets and textiles, and his signature esthetic is where Hicks draws inspiration for her creations.

"We may have had a tricky relationship because he was quite a tricky chap, (but) a brilliant designer and a fascinating person," Hicks said in an interview last week in Holt Renfrew's offices.

"As a father, he was a perfectionist and he had a very strong point of view on how things were going to be done. So there were definitely times as a child where it was intimidating and life could have possibly been a little more relaxed on occasion.

"But nevertheless, I recognize in myself a lot of my strengths have come from him and, indeed, the way I decorate. Whether it's interiors, whether it's a collection of fragrances or whether it's fine jewelry, there's a lot of influence from my father."

Her mother is Lady Pamela Hicks, daughter to the Earl and Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

Hicks took part in an in-store meet-and-greet with customers at Holt Renfrew's downtown flagship store last week where her jewelry collection will be carried exclusively in Canada.

The 44-year-old said there's much more she'd like to tackle in the style domain, but she wants to ensure she maintains her responsibilities balancing motherhood with work.

She also seeks to be prudent in lending her name and energy to a project she sees as having longevity.

"You want a collection that, firstly, you know is going to stand the test of time, you know is actually a good product, you know will have an audience that will be willing to buy it and invest in it and follow you," she said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Thank you India

Hicks aces accessories:

- The Hicks on Hicks collection of sterling silver and diamond pieces features her father's famous hexagonal pattern with a modern, architectural influence seen in cuffs, earrings, necklaces and statement rings.
- Her sea-inspired Island Life collection includes starfish wrap cuffs and rings, fishtail earrings and shimmering shell-shaped pendants.

3 life

Gift pick

Lovebullets

Lovebullets jewelry, the label that's championed by singers Lily Allen and Cheryl Cole gives a percentage of its profits to Warchild, who support children in conflict zones like Iraq. **MWN**

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U.S. Olympians to suit up in red-white-and-blue Ralph Lauren designs for London Games.

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Mane-y Christmas, a happy new hair!

THE KIT

By Chantel Simmons

For hair that dazzles as much as the decorations on the tree, spoil your locks with these three festive holiday hair tips.

Pixie Dust

Give your roots a "should've washed my hair but didn't have time" boost with Label.m Dry Shampoo, $22, labelm.co.uk.

Shine On

There's no excuse not to have silky, shiny hair this winter.

Here are our top picks to get shiny hair in the shower — or out. Try Orofluido Shine Spray, $22, orofluido.com

No Drips Allowed

Finally, you can colour your own hair without staining your skin. Try Clairol Nice n' Easy Color Blend Foam, $11, www.clairol.ca or 800-CLAIROL, and L'Oréal Paris Sublime Mousse, $12, lorealparis.ca.

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$47, shirtshuttle.com

ALEXANDER McQUEEN: SAVAGE BEAUTY
hardcover book, $45, amazon.com

MARC BY MARC JACOBS
holiday pavé star earrings, $48, shopbop.com

UNDER
boxer and Tee set, $110, underwear.com

MALIN + GOETZ
mojito soap set
$30, malinandgoetz.com

PAUL SMITH
wash bag
$195, paulsmith.co.uk

LUIS MORAIS
diamond and yellow gold bracelet
$290, mrporter.com

LEICA
D-Lux 5 Camera,$799, leica-camera.com

SANG A
Blink clutch, $675, sanga.com

MWN

No room? There's still a place for that tree

Think outside the decoration box ◗ Karl Lohnes invents new ways to add festive flair to the smallest of spaces

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Question: I live in a really small space and have no room to add a Christmas tree. How can I add a festive look to my small condo that won't take up the floor space? Andrea Nichols, Vancouver

Answer: I suggest looking at ways to add fresh or artificial greenery to the walls or a door rather than taking up floor space.

First thing to do is inquire with your condo to see if fresh greens and trees are allowed (very often they are not), especially when electrical lights are being added.

Not only are they considered a fire hazard, but the cleaning of dried needles and removal of the tree after the holidays is often a concern.

Artificial greens are a great alternative; they look realistic, are fire-retardant and last from year to year.

Look for outdoor artificial greenery. Larger-scaled wreaths and garlands can also help add a bigger impact.

Get creative

- **If you have a balcony,** decorate an artificial tree with tons of coloured lights and outdoor ornaments to view through the patio door while inside.
- **Replace** your living room table lamps with small pre-lit and potted trees during the holidays. The soft light will add a warm glow to the room.
- **Fill an umbrella stand** with tall dogwood branches and add mini lights. This can be a tall and contemporary alternative to the standard bulky tree.

POTTERY BARN

▶ Outdoor Pine Wreath with decorations; $99, Pottery Barn

Do up your door
Link three wreaths vertically on a door so they can be viewed from a common spot in your condo. Use over-door wreath hangers to hang the wreaths.

Arranging the smallest on top to largest on bottom will give you a traditional tree shape or stacking same-sized wreaths will add a contemporary flair.

Use battery operated mini lights to illuminate the wreaths to allow the door to swing open and closed.

For real fun, paint the door a shiny bright red colour or cover it in a big-scaled holiday wrapping paper.

Christmas in a corner
Choose an artificial half or corner tree.

This will give you the look of a tree but without the bulk of a full one.

I suggest buying a four-six foot tree and standing it on a skirted decorator table to give it height and allow it to look super tall and majestic.

With only half or a quarter-sized tree to decorate, fill it with tons of ornaments that are all related by colour.

Some great colour combinations would be: brown and orange, lime green and gold or red and turquoise.

SEARS

▶ Noel Avenue Corner Tree; $90, Sears

CRATE AND BARREL

▶ Faux long-needled garlands, ornaments and candles on a mantel add an instant holiday focal point to any room.

Festive reflections
Frame a large floor standing mirror with garlands, ornaments and lights.

To do this effectively, you have to go big with the garlands. Buy about 50 feet of garland; this will allow you to double it up and give a lush presence around the large mirror (or even a doorway or mantel).

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Holiday decor 101: Don't create a hot festive mess

Think separate colours, lots of candles and see-through glass
Resist the urge to make everything red and green And say no to stripes

You love it when your house is decked out in its holiday finest, reflecting all the good cheer and festive spirit inside. At least, you love it until Dec. 26.

Then you can't stand to look at another candy cane plate.

Smart shopping means choosing items you can use year-round, experts say, then adding little touches and accents to change it up.

This way, you'll end up with items that are usable beyond the season, easily packed away or simply gone.

"With less discretionary income, you have to make your dollars go far, but you want to decorate for the holidays," says Patty Warwick, vice-president and general merchandise manager of home at Sears.

"What's evolving is a practicality."

At the home of Nicole Sforza, senior home editor at Real Simple, you'll find several clear-glass vases filled with candy, which she likes to separate by colour: green in one container, red in another. "You won't have leftovers. It will all be gone," she promises.

KOHL'S/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Driftwood candle holder from Kohl's

The same vases could have been used last month to hold her Thanksgiving centrepiece of clementines, and they'll hold flowers in the summer and coloured leaves in early fall.

Coloured candles, which are so easy (and inexpensive) to switch out depending on the occasion, add an inviting glow to the house, especially when it's dark and cold outside, says Ralph Snyder, design director of homes for Kohl's Department Stores.

He recommends clear glass hurricanes to hold the candles, while Sforza might lay an inexpensive mirror on the dining table and put pillar candles on top, surrounded by greenery for Christmas and confetti on New Year's Eve.

Snyder figures you can get year-round use out of one of this season's hottest trends: a distressed, metallic material called mercury glass that's particularly popular for candleholders.

It has the shine you want for the holiday season, but it's not so gleaming and bright that it would look out of place on an everyday basis, he says.

SEARS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Around the holidays, sofas can get a quick makeover with decorative pillows or throws. Faux-fur throws from Sears.

Snyder suggests investing in the trend of bringing nature inside. That means natural fibres, grey pillows and linens, and blond wood — all of which are easily jazzed up with metallics, red or even more novelty motifs such as snowmen. (Red cardinals will last you longer through the winter than reindeer or snowmen, he notes.)

"The bigger the piece, the more neutral it should be. The very seasonal items should be small and easy to store — like red napkins, although you could use those on Valentine's Day again," Snyder says.

Real Simples Sforza thinks white dinnerware is a wise buy because it complements any red-and-green or silver-and-gold themes you might have going on, and an all-white theme can be sophisticated. "It's very festive if you use it all across the board — and it's not cliché."

For that touch of "holiday," she'd go with red or gold (note that's not red AND gold) placemats for the pop of colour. They're easier to store than dishes or glasses.

Don't limit yourself to the dining room though, adds Sears' Warwick.

The most important thing is to buy things you love. Then you'll want to use them year after year."

RALPH SNYDER, DESIGN DIRECTOR OF HOMES FOR KOHL'S DEPARTMENT STORES

Guests always seem to work their way into the kitchen, where you can line up holiday-themed mugs for coffee or even all-red dessert plates, she suggests.

Just remember where you put everything for next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOLIDAY HAZARDS

Try not to spend Christmas in the ER

'Tis the season for dancing sugarplums, goodwill toward all — and sometimes emergency-room trips for holiday decorating injuries. The Consumer Product Safety Commission in the U.S. said Tuesday that injuries involving falls from ladders while stringing lights, cuts from broken glass ornaments and other decorating activities are on the rise.

The U.S. government estimates more than 13,000 people were treated for such injuries during November and December of last year. That's up from 10,000 in 2007 and 12,000 in 2008 and 2009.

Some safe holiday tips:

- Make sure you have a fresh, green tree when buying a live one, with needles that are hard to pull from the branches.
- When buying an artificial tree, look for a "fire resistant" label.
- Only buy lights that have been tested for safety by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Check those lights to see if there are any broken or cracked sockets or frayed wires.
- Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace. It could cause a flash fire. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Have yourself an appy Christmas

Banish dull shrimp cocktail in favour of something zestier: Caribbean Shrimp Skewers

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This recipe makes 24 skewers.

Are you a little bored with the same old shrimp cocktail? This year, try something different.

Start with the same easy, pre-cooked shrimp, but this time toss them with a zesty Jamaican-style seasoning blend and skewer them with cubes of tangy mango and cool, crunchy cucumber. Add a touch of zippy pepper and nobody will suffer from yet-another-shrimp-cocktail syndrome.

Ingredients:

- 5 ml (1 tsp) garlic powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) allspice
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) cinnamon
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) nutmeg
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dry ginger
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried thyme
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) cayenne pepper
- 5 ml (1 tsp) gblack pepper
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 285 g (10 oz) peeled and deveined cooked medium shrimp
- 6 Peppadew peppers, quartered
- 2 mangoes, peeled, cubed
- 1/2 English cucumber, cut in 1/2 moon slices

Preparation:

1. In bowl, stir garlic powder, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, thyme, cayenne, black pepper and salt. Pat shrimp dry, then toss in spice mix.
2. On 10-cm (4-inch) skewers or picks, place a piece of pepper, then a piece of mango, a piece of cucumber and finally 3 spiced shrimp. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA**

Weekly Cookbook

One of the best parts of the festive season is appetizers to serve as friends gather. In that spirit, Toronto food writer Judith Finlayson and chef Jordan Wagman co-authored 750 Best Appetizers: From Dips and Salsas to Spreads and Shooters.

The book has 16 chapters built around specific types of dishes, such as dips, or specific ingredients like cheese.

Among the starters are: tahini dip, shrimp bisque, duck confit quesadilla, and others. **WITH FILES FROM THE CP**

It's time to face it — Italian and Swedish meatballs deserve a rest ◐ Try cranberry-chipotle ones instead

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This recipe makes about 50 meatballs.

Preparation:

1. Coat a large rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray.
2. In a skillet heat oil over medium-high heat. Add garlic and onion and sauté for about 5 minutes or until soft and translucent; set aside to cool.
3. In a large bowl, mix together cooked onion mixture, beef, pork, salt, black pepper, chipotle pepper, adobo sauce, vinegar, eggs and breadcrumbs. Form mixture into 2.5-cm (1-inch) balls. Arrange balls on prepared baking sheet. Bake in 220 C (425 F) for 10 minutes or until cooked through and browned.
4. Sauce: Meanwhile, in a saucepan combine cranberry sauce, chili sauce and adobo sauce and bring to a simmer over medium heat.
5. When meatballs are done, transfer to a shallow bowl or rimmed platter. Pour sauce over meatballs and toss gently to coat and serve. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED FOR METRO NEWS BY EMILY RICHARDS,**

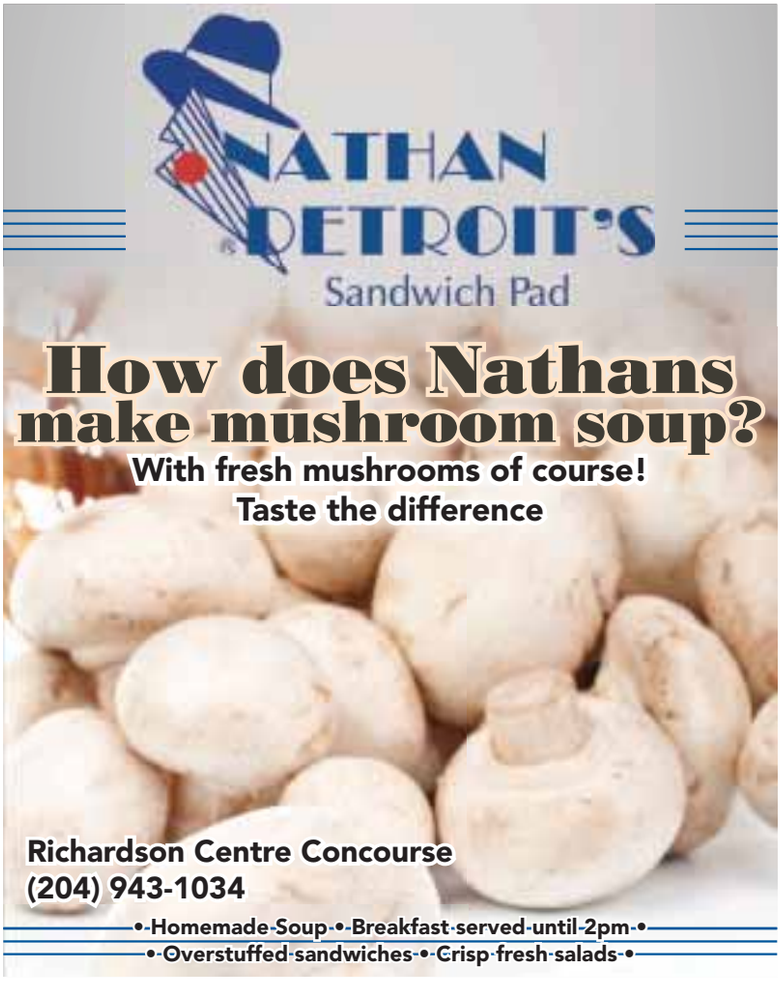
Ingredients:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 onion, diced
- 500 g (1 lb) lean ground beef
- 500 g (1 lb) lean ground pork
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) freshly ground black pepper
- 1 chipotle pepper (in adobo sauce), minced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) adobo sauce (from canned chipotles in adobo)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) red wine vinegar
- 2 eggs
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) panko breadcrumbs

Sauce:

- 500 mL (2 cups) whole berry cranberry sauce
- 375 mL (1 1/2 cups) chili sauce
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) adobo sauce (from canned chipotles in adobo)

A Winnipeg company is currently looking for an employee with exceptional knowledge of Cantonese and Szechuan style cuisine (including traditional Hong Kong dim sum and Hong Kong style bakery and pastry), is able to and willing to train and to provide recipes and share your skills and knowledge and cooking techniques to the master chefs and sous chefs of the company. You have the following experience: (i) over 5 years experiences of training chefs; (ii) over 5 years experiences of a master chef; and (iii) experiences with opening new restaurants. We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package. Please send your resume to the following: Eric at: epl663@hotmail.ca



4 sports

Jets preview

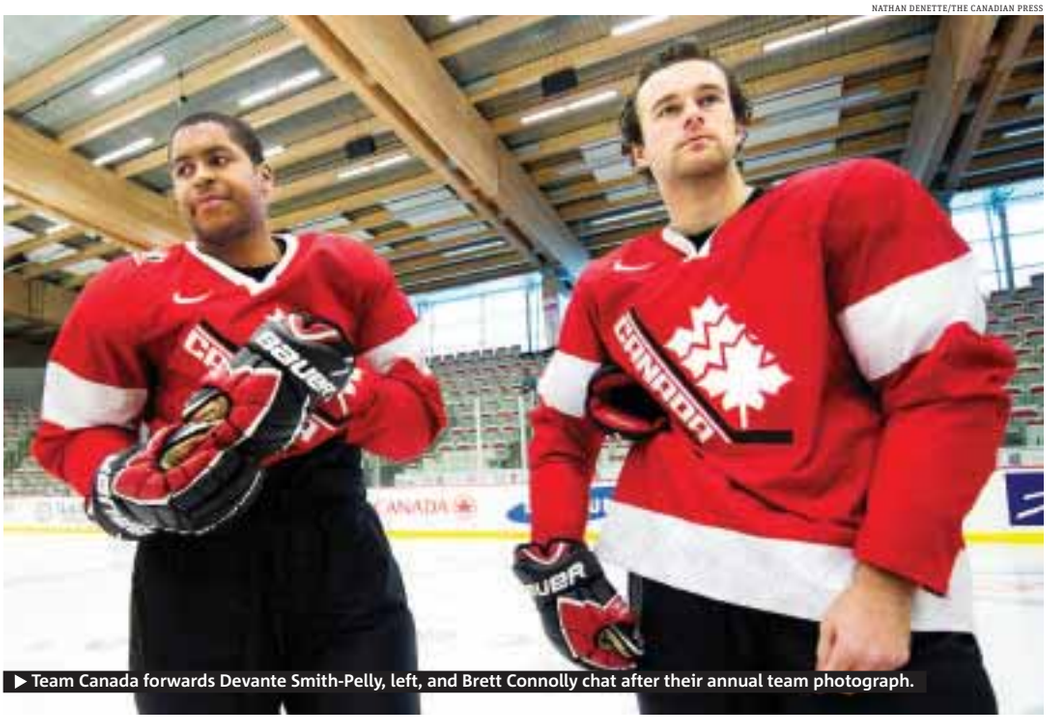
Washington at Winnipeg
7:30 p.m.
TV: TSN-Jets

Winnipeg (14-12-4) needs to beat the Capitals (15-13-1) in order to maintain second place in the Southeast Division. Washington lost 5-1 to the Flyers on Tuesday. Tomas Vokoun allowed four goals on 21 shots before being pulled. Under new coach Dale Hunter, the Capitals are 3-4-0. Alex Ovechkin has one goal in six games this month. Mike Green (groin) hasn't played since Nov. 11. He remains day-to-day.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heavyweight contenders

Elite defence, multi-tasking forwards named to Canadian junior men's hockey team

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Team Canada forwards Devante Smith-Pelly, left, and Brett Connolly chat after their annual team photograph.

The Canadian team charged with reclaiming gold at the world junior hockey championship will be able to count on a big, deep defence, multi-purpose forwards and an experienced goaltender.

"We have real good balance," coach Don Hay said yesterday of his 22-man squad. "When we tried to put the team together, we really looked at what we'd need if somebody went down with an injury. Could that player move up? Play on the power-play and kill penalties and things like that?

"We have a couple top-end lines and a couple of hard-working third and fourth lines and we have players that can fill different roles and move into different positions."

The defence is big and skilled.

Led by Saginaw Spirit's Jamie Oleksiak (almost six foot seven and 244 pounds), the seven defencemen chosen average almost six foot three and 200 pounds. Five of them were taken in the first round of the NHL draft.

Up front, Canada profited when Devante Smith-Pelly of the Anaheim Ducks and Brett Connolly of the Tampa Bay Lightning were made available to the Canadian team.

Smith-Pelly, 5-11 and 212 pounds, is projected to play the wing on Canada's top line and create space for his linemates.

"I think we'll be physical in a lot of different ways," said Hay, who coaches the WHL Vancouver Giants. "We have a lot of speed that will let us get to pucks quickly and then when we get the pucks we'll be physical on the puck. You have Smith-Pelly who will create a lot of physical play and I think guys will really follow him."

The 2012 world junior hockey championship opens Dec. 26 in Calgary and Edmonton. Canada will play its Pool B games in Edmonton. Pool A and medal-round games are in Calgary.

"I learned a lot from last year. ... It's something I used to motivate myself in the summer to get better, but right now it's a clean slate."
GOALIE MARK VISENTIN

Mark Visentin, one of four Niagara IceDogs named to the Canadian team, will start in goal.

"Coming in, he's the No. 1 guy," Hay said. "I think you're always proving yourself and he knows that."

Scott Wedgewood of the Plymouth Whalers is the other goalie.

Visentin, Connolly, Quinton Howden of the Moose Jaw Warriors and Jaden Schwartz of Colorado College all played in the 2011 tournament.

Canada had the gold medal in its grasp in Buffalo with a 3-0 lead heading into the third period. Russia scored five unanswered goals on Visentin in the third to take it away from them.

Freddie and Dougie Hamilton will be the first brothers to play for the Canadian team since Randy and Mike Moller 30 years ago. Freddie is 19 and Dougie is 18.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Jets in position for late-December surge

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RORY BOYLEN
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

With the Christmas holidays about to set in, the Winnipeg Jets are lifting off, which is the most promising development of the season.

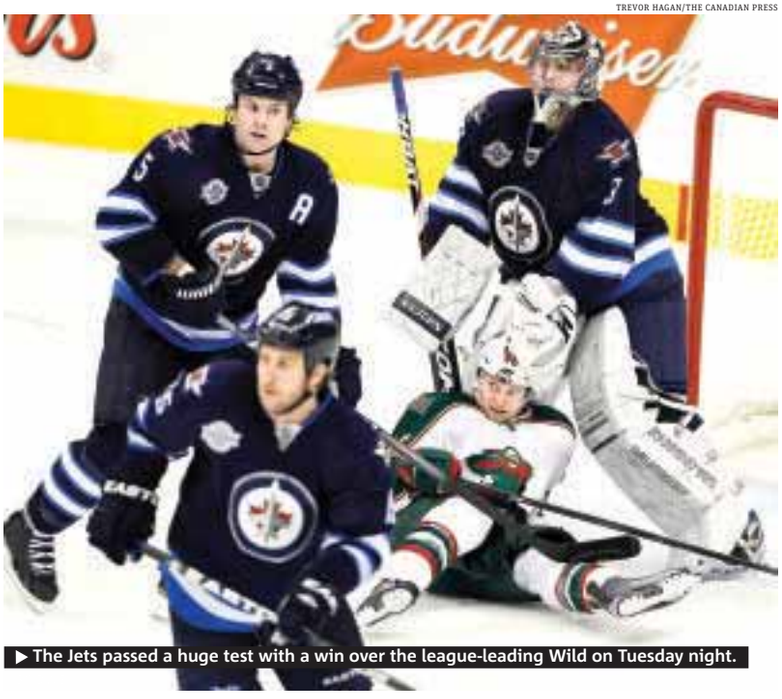
Their comfort and excitement level at home seems to be unmatched and they've been closing out games to earn five wins in their past six.

If this is to continue, though, the Jets have to tighten up down the stretch. The team holds a scoring advantage over its opponents in the first period, but has been outscored in the later frames, with the third being their worst — the exact opposite of what you'd want.

But wasn't it promising to see them hold off the league-leading Minnesota Wild Tuesday night? In a tie game late, the Jets took the lead on Bryan Little's marker and then shut down the Wild. Now, Minnesota doesn't have the most imposing lineup in the league, but the fact of the matter is that team is the measuring stick for now and the Jets stared them down.

And no matter what negative things you say about the overachieving Wild lineup, they still have some dangerous weapons. In fact, we saw one of them with the game on the line when Dany Heatley was left wide open in front of the Jets net for a glorious opportunity to tie it. If there was anything you didn't want to see at that moment, it was a two-time 50-goal scorer having the game on his stick below the hash marks.

TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ The Jets passed a huge test with a win over the league-leading Wild on Tuesday night.

But the Jets held them off. Early in the season I wrote about how Ondrej Pavelec needed to step up and win games for the Jets if they were to make the playoffs, rather than just tag along for the ride. Full credit goes to Mr. Pavelec for his lunging stop off the mask against Heatley that ultimately turned into two points for the Jets.

With a 10-4-0 record at home, the Jets are among the best in the league in friendly territory, which says a lot after they started at the MTS Centre so poorly. With seven of their next eight at home, it's these kinds of mid-season stands that can be the difference between a playoff spot and a tee time in April.

And with a January slate that includes nine road games on the horizon, it's only going to get more difficult from here.

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Everybody knows a hometown hero, but not everybody knows how to score Winnipeg Jets tickets.

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For details, visit
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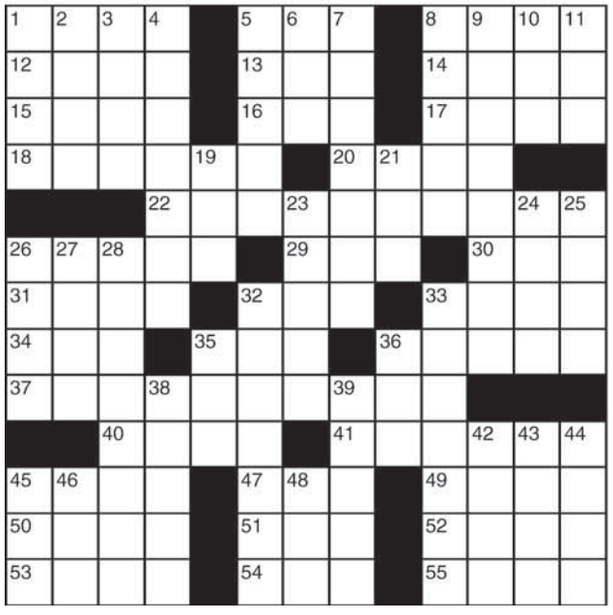
Crossword



Across

1 Call a halt to
5 Moreover
8 Spare tire
12 Lima's land
13 Island souvenir
14 Anger
15 Right on the map?
16 Energy
17 It takes the cake
18 Squat down
20 Lounge around
22 Steinway accessory
26 Winter warmer
29 Ostrich's cousin
30 Payable
31 Crazy one
32 Gabor or Mendes
33 Frau's mate
34 Submachine gun
35 Chopping tool
36 Heart line?
37 Weightlifting maneuver
40 Brat's stocking stuffer
41 Meager
45 Met melody
47 Chances, for short
49 Midday
50 Covers
51 A Gershwin
52 Fragrant oil source
53 Versifier
54 Plaything
55 — and crafts

Down

1 Detail, for short
2 Rip
3 Approximately
4 Taken advantage of
5 Greek leader?
6 Born
7 Sheepskin
8 Reached 32 degrees, maybe
9 Light purple shade
10 Time of your life?
11 Quarterback Roethlisberger
19 Spy novel org.
21 — Dhabi
23 When pigs fly
24 Rudely brief
25 Zeus' consort
26 Organization
27 Leak slowly
28 Agree
32 Use
33 Cry of acclamation
35 "Eureka!"
36 Cleo's slayer
38 Move on momentum
39 English homework, maybe
42 Lion's call
43 Type
44 Tackles' teammates
45 Height for Heidi
46 Carnival city
48 Expert

▶ Yesterday's answer

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

3			9		4			1
	1		2		3		6	
		6				9		
		3	6		8	5		
2								6
		1	4		7	8		
		2				3		
	4		1		6		9	
9			5		2			7

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

6	5	8	7	4	9	1	2	3
1	3	9	2	8	5	6	4	7
2	7	4	3	1	6	8	5	9
4	9	6	1	3	7	5	8	2
8	2	7	6	5	4	9	3	1
3	1	5	8	9	2	4	7	6
5	6	3	9	2	8	7	1	4
9	4	2	5	7	1	3	6	8
7	8	1	4	6	3	2	9	5

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Nice face! You're really sweet! That's all I really need to say. My social awkwardness may keep me from asking you out for a while, but you're just too darn pretty to worry about that. **WEEKDAYGROWLERFILLER**

Youmattie, You are a dream I do not wish to wake. But if I must wake, let me wake with a Kiss. **TERENCE**

My wonderful Prince Charming, you are my unique and true love! You are my endless love! You are my destiny! I believe that fate has brought us together til the end of time! You are a gift from heaven! and today is my b-day..I am blessed and lucky to be loved by you! Thank you for loving me so much, for your support and in believing and trusting in me... I love you so much.
C.L. FOREVER YOUR PRINCESS

A look at the weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Min -12°	Min -12°	Min -7°
Max -12°	Max -7°	Max -1°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 So many things are going right for you now that it's like you have a guardian angel watching over you.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 An investment you made a long time ago may pay off today.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Make the effort to remind the people who mean the most to you how much you care for them.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Take care with your thoughts today, because what you focus on will very soon become your reality. Think only happy thoughts.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Cosmic activity in your fellow Fire sign of Sagittarius makes it easy for you to persuade friends and rivals to give you what you need.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 If you're not careful, you could find yourself swept away on a tide of other people's negative feelings.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will say something outrageous today — and you will be applauded for it.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If someone says you need to prove your friendship by spending money, you're being take on ride.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Whatever target it is you are aiming at, you will hit it with ease.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You know instinctively that what someone is telling you is a lie. Just turn your back and walk away.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 This is a great day for reaching out to people you have not seen in a while. Renew those old friendships.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You'll get the opportunity to make a powerful friend today. Don't try to be modest about your talents.

SALLY BROMPTON

BONERS

Caption contest

KERSTIN JOENSSON, FILE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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